

## Semitropic Water Storage District: Delta Wetlands Project (Log number Nov11 - 3)

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**Staff Recommendation:** No action at this time.

This project does not meet the urgency criteria of an Early Action. Upon completion of the Delta Plan, the applicant should consult with staff to ensure the project's consistency with the Delta Plan.

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### **Background**

The applicant is proposing to convert two heavily subsided islands into reservoirs and preserve two others as managed open space. The applicant has indicated that consideration as an early action by the Delta Stewardship Council (Council) is urgent to facilitate the on-going regulatory permitting of the project that would allow for implementation. The applicant is in the process of amending water right permits and expects to certify a Final Place of Use Environmental Impact Report (EIR) at the end of 2010 specifically for water rights. It is unclear which documents on the application are specific to the construction of the Delta Wetlands Project.

The project is not considered to be an Early Action for the following reasons:

- The time line provided by the applicants indicates the Council will be requested to provide a consistency finding in spring 2012; therefore this project is not eligible to be considered an early action.
- The project will need science review after the Place of Use EIR is final.
- Project construction is anticipated 3 years following obtaining regulatory approvals, which are targeted for 2011. Based on the schedule provided, project construction is anticipated to be complete in 2014 (3 years after obtainment of anticipated regulatory approvals).
- A project of this geographic size and with the amount of flow involved must be integrated into the overall plan for ecosystem restoration in the Delta, and therefore is appropriate to be considered for consistency with the Delta Plan

### **List of Attachments**

Attachment 1 – Application for Consideration of a Plan or Project

### **Contact**

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